[MR. A. J. Van Ross.]

Council. All this involves an enormous amount of clerical work which has to be rushed through in a short space of time, so much so that the budget clerks of the Account Office have often to work far into the night during the budget season.

In addition to the ordinary items of work already described, we have certain items of special work this year. As the Council is aware, we have reclassified the heads of account, and we have, therefore, to recast all the accounts of the last three years to suit the present classification.

Secondly, the constitution of the Standing Finance Committee has imposed much additional work on the Finance Department. Every departmental estimate of voted charges will have to go before that Committee in the form of a statement and it has to be accompanied by a memorandum explaining the details of the provisions that are proposed to be made. This is an item of work which we have not had to do in previous years.

Again, another item of work is the collection of various kinds of statistics—statistics of pay, travelling allowance etc., in Travancore and other Provinces and States. To do all this work, I have only two clerks, which is the present strength of the Budget section of the Account Office. They are engaged in the ordinary work of the office in connection with the budget. We have budget work throughout the year, *viz.*, work relating to re-appropriations, additional grants, watching of actuals, etc. These clerks have also to attend to several miscellaneous duties such as keeping of the State Journal and Ledger, consolidation of transfer entries, etc. They cannot cope with the heavy work that is involved in the preparation of the budget. Last year, four additional clerks were employed and the work was not so heavy as it is certain to be this year. These clerks were transferred from the reserve staff of 13 hands which I had then and which I surrendered from the beginning of this year. Even with the additional clerks, it was very difficult to manage; and the men had to work on all holidays and there were even occasions when they had to work till twelve in the night.

I may inform the Council that the creation of a temporary establishment for budget work is not peculiar to this State. In Madras, for instance, the Finance Department entertains a temporary establishment for budget work consisting of one Superintendent, 3 clerks, one short-hand writer and one attender, in addition to one Superintendent and two clerks detailed for the purpose from other sections. The additional staff asked for by me is absolutely necessary to prepare the budget and present it to the Council within the prescribed time and I would request the Council to sanction my demand.

The grant was made.

Demand IV.—Excise.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding 4·04 thousand rupees under IV. Excise—4. C. Ranges. Of this

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amount, Rs. 3,000 is required to meet the cost of the purchase and installation of a retort for the continuous still at the Nagercoil Distillery and the balance for the repairs to the furnace of the pot-stills at the same distillery. No provision was made for these items of expenditure in the budget for 1098, because, at the time of the submission of the budget, no information was available as to the probable cost of the retort and the repair to the furnace was an unexpected item. Towards the end of 1097, the retort of the continuous still became leaky. The Executive Engineer, Work-shop and Stores Division, who examined the retort, expressed the opinion that it had become worn out beyond repair and should immediately be replaced by a new one. A new retort had therefore to be ordered urgently and it arrived only in Vrischikam this year. The cost of the retort including the cost of the copper lining, which was done in the local P. W. D. Work-shop, and the cost of installation, will, according to the estimate of the Executive Engineer, amount to Rs. 3,000. The continuous still, which was constructed on improved scientific lines, began to be worked in 1094. Owing to the action of wash, the retort which is made of cast iron became corroded and leaky beyond repair. The purchase of a new retort could not be put off since distillation had to be carried on without interruption in the continuous still. The expenditure was thus unavoidable. As no funds are available out of the budget grant under this head, I request that the Council will be so good as to pass the grant. I do not ask for fresh funds. There are savings to the extent of Rs. 45,000 under B. Salt—transport charges, since no salt is available in the factories for transport to the depôts. The amount required, *viz.*, Rs. 3,000, may be diverted from the above savings.

Certain repairs to the pot-stills of the Nagercoil Distillery having been found necessary, the Executive Engineer, Work-shop and Stores Division, Trivandrum, under whose supervision the repairs were done, inspected the settings of the pot-stills in the Nagercoil Distillery and made the following remarks in regard to the furnaces of the pot-stills.

"There is no question at all that these furnaces are faulty in design. The pot-stills are supported on D. H. rails which, of course, sag under the influence of heat. The grates are enormous and must have an enormous quantity of fuel. There is no system of baffling the hot gases and the bulk of them pass direct to the chimney and the heat is then lost. The gases should be made to circulate round the surface of the pot-stills so that they will be compelled to give up a much greater portion of their heat. The grates in my opinion could be much smaller. Now, when the pot-stills are being taken from their settings, is the time for redesigning these very imperfect furnaces."

Towards the close of Karkatakam 1097, it was decided to rebuild the furnaces according to the Executive Engineer's design and he was requested to send an estimate of cost for rebuilding the furnaces. The estimate was received and submitted to Government in Tulam 1098,

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[MR. L. C. Hodgson.]

and special funds to the extent of the estimated expenditure of Rs. 1,100 were applied for. Funds to meet this expenditure are not available under 4 C. Ranges, the proper head, for the reason that the expenditure was unforeseen and consequently not provided for. A supplemental grant of Rs. 1,040 under 4. C. Ranges is necessary for meeting this expenditure. Since the work was urgent, it has already been taken in hand and completed. In the circumstances stated above, I request that the Council will be so good as to pass the expenditure. The amount required may be met from the savings under B. Salt, as in the case of the cost of the retort.

PRESIDENT: There is a motion in the name of Mr. Madhava Variar. Do you move it?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: I do not move it.

The following motion was, therefore, deemed to have been withdrawn.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

To omit Rs. 4,040 for the construction of a new furnace to the pot-stills of the Nagercoil Distillery, etc.

The grant was then made.

Demand IX.—General Administration, Secretariat, etc.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 6,470 for payment of travelling allowances to the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

There is a provision of Rs. 8,000 in this year's budget. Out of this sum, Rs. 4,138 is required to pay off the arrear claims of the previous years. The balance left, *viz.*, Rs. 3,862, is insufficient to meet the travelling allowances of the members for the current year and other incidental expenses. As it is undesirable to put off payment of travelling allowance to the members, it is requested that a sum of Rs. 6,470 be sanctioned under this head. The sum that is asked for is absolutely necessary.

The grant was made.

Demand XIV.—Education.

MR. L. C. HODGSON: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 20,000—Rs. 10,000 for the expenses of the University Committee to be constituted shortly, and Rs. 10,000 for opening Group I of the Intermediate course in the Women's College. I shall take the two items separately.

The University Committee.—It will not be necessary for me to say much on this subject, because you, Sir, have already announced the impending appointment of the University Committee, two members of which are to come from outside Travancore. A Committee to which expert gentlemen from outside Travancore are invited cannot be expected to do all its work for nothing. One of the items of expenditure

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